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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/709,148

04/16/2004

Brian L. Ott

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EXAMINER

SHAW, CLIFFORD C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1725

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/709,148	Applicant(s) OTT, BRIAN L.	
	Examiner Clifford C. Shaw	Art Unit 1725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,8,11,12,17-19 and 21-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7, 9, 10, 13-16, and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 4/16/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1011, 0815, 0419</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

Detailed Action

1.) The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2.) Claims 17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 17 describes the standby voltage as exceeding the welding voltage in amplitude. This is contrary to the disclosed invention, wherein the standby voltage is less than the welding voltage. Because claim 17 is contrary to the invention as disclosed, it is unclear what the intended scope of the claim is. In claim 21, there is no antecedent basis for "the wire feeder", making it unclear what the scope of the claim is.

3.) The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4.) Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oestreicher (2,617,913). Figure 1 and the discussion thereof at columns 2-3 in the patent to Oestreicher (2,617,913) disclose a welding system with features claimed, including: a power source with a primary contactor associated with element 24 and a secondary contactor associated with element 16; a weld cable 10 connecting the power source to a remote device 11; and a

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controller including elements 11 and 7 that regulates the activation of the first and second contactors to switch between standby mode and welding mode. In regard to claim 8, the contact of element 11 with element 7 provides a modulated signal to initiate welding.

5.) Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hsien (5,276,305, cited by applicant). The patent to Hsien (5,276,305) discloses a method of remotely controlling a power source 12 with the steps claimed, including: packaging feedback of commands into a data packet as shown in figures 2 and 3; transmitting the data packet from remote device 31 and 3 across weld cable 2, 5 to controller 13, as claimed.

6.) The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7.) Claims 19 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsien (5,276,305). The patent to Hsien (5,276,305) discloses the subject matter claimed except for explicit mention of multiple data packets as in claim 19 and except for transmitting during an active welding operation as in claim 23. These differences do not patentably distinguish over the patent. It is considered obvious that in use, multiple adjustments of the power supply would be made, depending on the requirements of a particular welding job, satisfying the claim language calling for multiple data packets in claim 19. In regard to claim 23, the control system of Hsien

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(5,276,305) is designed to operate independently of the welding power system (i.e., the control signals are high frequency signals capacitively coupled to the welding cable). It is considered obvious that the signals of Hsien (5,276,305) be transmitted at any phase of a welding operation, including "during" the operation, the motivation being to adjust the power supply of Hsien (5,276,305) during a particular welding job.

8.) Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oestreicher (2,617,913) as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Toth (4,079,231). It would have been obvious to have used the system of Oestreicher (2,617,913) to control any conventional remote welding device, including one with a wire feeder, the motivation being the teachings of Toth (4,079,231) that a wire feeder can be controlled by a system sensitive to a modulated low voltage standby mode (see figure 1 in Toth (4,079,231) and note wire feed system at 14 controlled by elements 28 and 36).

9.) Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsien (5,276,305) as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of Zucker et al. (6,906,285, cited by applicant). It would be obvious to use the system of Hsien (5,276,305) to control any conventional welding setup, including one with a wire feeder as claimed, the motivation being the teachings of Zucker et al. (6,906,285) that it is conventional to remotely control a wire feeder powered by the welding power supply (see elements 10, 50, and the wire feed motor "M" in Zucker et al. (6,906,285)).

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10.) Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsien (5,276,305) as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of the Intellon white paper no. 0027 (cited by applicant). The only aspect of the claim to which the rejection above does not apply is the provision for a particular format for the data packet. This difference does not patentably distinguish over the prior art. At the time applicant's invention was made, it would have been obvious to have used a data format in Hsien (5,276,305) with the features claimed, the motivation being the teachings of the Intellon white paper no. 0027 that such is useful for transmitting control data over a power line (see the discussion of preamble, data, and CRC on pages 3-5 of the Intellon white paper no. 0027).

11.) Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 13-16, and 20 are objected to for depending from rejected claims, but would be given favorable consideration if recast in independent form to include all of the limitations of the parent claims. None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a welding system with all the claim features of claim 2, particularly the specific manner of powering the wire feeder electronics in standby mode as set forth in the claim. None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a welding system with all of the features of claim 9, and specifically the particular data packet combined with the other claim features. None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests the welding system with all of the features of claim 13, particularly the limitations directed to the battery as set forth in the claim. None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests the method of claim 20, particularly the step of powering the electronics of the remote device in standby mode as set forth in the claim. The other claims are deemed to contain patentable subject matter at least because they depend from one of claims 2 or 13.


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12.) The patent to Corrigall et al. (4,450,340) is cited to show a prior art remotely controlled power supply.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Clifford C Shaw at telephone number 571-272-1182. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday of the first week of the pay period and on Tuesday through Friday of the second week of the pay period.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Thomas G. Dunn, can be reached at 571-272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Clifford C Shaw
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1725

April 17, 2006